GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5017
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
TEA PRODUCTION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a New Area Development Scheme to encourage tea production in non-traditional tea growing areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government are encouraging tea production in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the extent to which the idea of tea cultivation become acceptable in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the other States where the Tea Board has chalked out plans to introduce tea cultivation;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh has suitable climatic and weather conditions for tea cultivation; and

(f) if so, the details of plans of Tea Board to extend tea cultivation in new States?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Himachal Pradesh have shown interest in developing a total area of 7700 ha. for tea plantations in the Chamba, Kangra and Mandi Districts.Suitability of the area for tea cultivation has been testified by the Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University (HPKVV) and CSIR, Palampur.

(d) : Tea Board has identified certain areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland, Orissa and Bihar as suitable for tea cultivation.

(e) : Preliminary surveys carried out by the Tea Board in Andhra Pradesh indicate that soil and climatic conditions in the State are not suitable for tea cultivation.

(f) : Through the New Area Development Scheme, new areas in non-traditional states other than North Eastern states are being brought under tea cultivation in the 9th Five Year Plan Period. The Scheme provides for extending financial support by way of a subsidy of Rs.40,000/- per ha. for tea planting in new areas. During the year 1999-2000 the Tea Board under the said Scheme has disbursed a subsidy of Rs. 29.85 lakhs. It is proposed to bring 20,000 ha. of land in the non- traditional areas under tea cultivation during the 9th Plan Period.